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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent Office at 703-3057718 on the date below:	
1/17/02	<i>James O. Harris</i>
Date	Signature

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

David Becker et al.

Serial No.: 09/923,058

Filed: August 6, 2001

For: METHODS FOR ENHANCING SILICON
DIOXIDE TO SILICON NITRIDE
SELECTIVITY (AS AMENDED HEREIN)

Group Art Unit: 1763

Examiner: unk

Atty. Dkt. No.: MCRO284-2/LWT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Please consider the enclosed preliminary amendment. Applicant has brought the total number of claims in the application to 94, but only three independent claims are now pending. Hence it is believe that the Applicant owes this office $(94 - 20) \times \$18.00 = \$1,332.00$ in connection with this filing. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to deduct this fee, or any other fees that are due in connection with this response or otherwise, to Deposit Account No. 01-2508/MCRO284-2/LWT.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

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II. REMARKS

Claims 1-29 have been canceled, and new claims 30-123 are pending. The title of the specification has been changed so that it better relates to what applicant is now claiming by virtue of this response. The cross-reference to related applications paragraph has also been updated. Finally, the Abstract has been amended so that that summary better relates to what applicant is now claiming by virtue of this amendment. These amendments do not constitute the addition of new matter, i.e., matter which is not already present in Applicant's specification as filed.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned patent attorney at 713-787-1499 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to this submission.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date:

1-17-2002